# Summary of the Retail Census of 1935

WITH the completion of the 1985 census, comprehensive data on retail sales are now available for 3 of the past 7 years. Thus, it is possible to determine not only the extent of the decline from 1929 to the approximate low point of the depression, but also to measure the recovery since 1933 in the aggregate and by different kinds of business. The two preceding census compilations provided a wealth of marketing information which, among other things, has afforded the basis for the development of more adequate current indexes of retail sales. Our knowledge of consumer purchasing has thereby been enhanced, and the present census affords another bench mark for testing the representative nature of the current series; it will also further research which will provide new material along

these lines as well as essential data for all types of marketing research.

In this article, the summary figures from the preliminary census report have been assembled in a form which permits a quick comparison of the totals. These data are presented by States and by kinds of business. The accompanying map reveals the comparative increases, by States, from 1933 to 1935 as well as the decline in both of these years from the 1929 results.

### Total Sales in 1935 31 Percent Above 1933.

Total retail sales of \$32,790,267,000 already reported in 1935 were 31 percent in excess of the total reported in 1933. The largest relative geographical gains were in the Mountain and Pacific States, these two divisions

Table 1.—Summary of Retail Trade, by States, 1933-35

	Number of stores		Nat mles								Employees (full		Total pay rail	
\$tata			Thousands of dollars		1920-100		Per-capita sales (dollars)		Active proprietars and firm members		end part time), average for the year		(theusands of dol-	
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	1938	1935	1433	1036	1933	HOOM	1083	383Y	1033	3000	1933	1025	1933	1006
United States 1	(, 826, 119	1, 649, 091	26, 017, 235	82, 700, 207	61.0	04.8	190	267	1, 674, 341	1, 510, 004	3, 453, 869	3, 899, 037	3, 910, 465	1, 568, 808
Alabama.	4.740	22,003 5,100	240,384 78,240	830, 127 116, 643	47.6 38.4	63.6 58.7	115	118 287 120	31,202 8,039	20,716 4,899	33,646 9,816	42, 398 12,704 27,003	22, 763 5, 455	80, 140 11, 970
ArkonsosColikroje	16,918 No 614	16, 270 100, 011	160,096 1,692,870	239,676 2,312,183	43.4 62.7	58.1 72.0	294	320 398	17, 905 94, 318	18,10 00,602	23,017	250, 103	38, 298 216, 106	19, 841 271, 484
Connection	13, 700	14,250	252,014	290,407	42.9	03.3	288 321	386 278	14 690	13,224	234, 673 93,439	15, 176 63, 889	27, 179	20, 815
Connection	22,017	24,377	490, 598	646, 830	58.4	72.4	288 232	324	20, 010	20, 203	58, 039 7, 863	69,889	68, 486	68, 403
Delowers District of Coldustia	3,428 6,158	4, 902 6, 427	57, 010 241, 516	78, 175 327, 200	56. B	70.7 07.3	445	286 541	20, 610 3, 200 6, 516	3,876 1,806	32,006	8, 404 41, 497	8,831 28,860	7, 766 41, 283
Plorida	21,097	24, 232	288,804	421, 249	57.2	83.6	105	201	22, \$88	21,674	42, 987	50,798	30.838	40,694
Georgia	26,681	air310	762, DIG	454,087	. <b>65.</b> €	78.8	118 188 923 264 160	160	28, 179	28,522	54,420	60,87	35,763	40.953
lother	5, 129 98, 870	6,853 97, etc	87, 406 1, 728, 880	139, 688 2, 077, 222	\$1.7 46.6	82.5 50.8	988	261 266	5,526 99,827	6,847 90,138	262,845	19,676 280,107	7,040 231,323	12,676 249,683
Lilitapia	11.590	49.768	990,084	1192.60	146.5	10.5	98i		4200	17,00	150,022	148, 761	141,147	158,761
Indiana	41,960	42,423 38, 632 27, 348	509, 972	774, 303	#6.6 #6.6	69.3	160	236 265 237 136	44,006	20, 600	85, 507	1 oz. 110	63, 316	80,700
Iowa.	84,043	38, 432	410,006 329,178	940, 211	44.2	66.6	191 175	706	37,323 29,082	36, 034 26, \$8L	46,896	72,708	47,020	86,500
Koons, Kentukky	26,770	24.24	304,005	646, 893 386, 723	81.6		1 516	136	27,648	26.167	12,350	82, 232 48, 374	20,513	89, 542 84, 825 29, 849 21, 614
	00 000	23, 147	444 173	341, 354	1 85.4	71.7	125	1 161	22, 400 12, 104	21,308 11,886	19 2ks	49,787	30, 239 30, 411 18, 715 40, 707	20,00
Maloo	11,420	13.00	184, 385 284, 384	28L 049	00.0	76.1	229 235	278	13.05	11,866	23.167	24,663	18,715	21.514
Manyland	23, 487	25 GBS	1.195.161	449, 268 1, 487, 488	62.0 50.7	72.6 72.4 62.1 77.4	277	260 340	24, 683 47, 838	21, 185 45, 433	55, 202 160, 386	58, 118 184, 309	40,707	61,034
Michigan	47, 121	61,897	810, 137	L 384 500	120	623	20í	208 311	60,679	66,146	134,668	182,785	150, 224 100, 969	389,684 361,772
Minuesola	13,610	87,397	1 886, 100	215,064	) 65.0	77.4	224	311	85,016	66, 846 34, 883	1 760.320	92, 933	64, 788 14, 271	[   11.434
Misalasippi	14,773 49,247	10,100 50,350	140, <b>546</b> 760, 128	177, 270	34.0	42.4 53.6	78 180	88	16, 679	14,540 47,486	21,787 112,597	23, 278	14,27	16, 607 101, 756
Montana		7.028	[12, 399	188,041	46.1	77.6	217	226 359 263 422	7,164	7,103	18,106	17, 506	90, 182 11, 813	18,493
Nobresko	19,212	18,000	214, 575	368,637	48.0	83.7	201	260	20, \$20	17, 990	38,052	40.966	28,843 8,317	32, 490
Novadn Now Hampshire	1,400	I I M	28, 090	45.7%	50,0	84.0 82.0	220	423 241	2,490	1,647 6,650	8 176	4, 138	8,317	4, 787
New Jerroy	0,369	7, 186 07, 730	1,016,928	141,042	55.2	MAC O	220	294	63,410	18,740	18, 460 110, 733	16, 403	11,877	14,716 140,132
Mare Marelino	a oue	4 781	53,944	87, 883	45,0	1721	108	205	1.513	4.013	8,826	1.294	1 6.861	8,096
New York 1	178 014	204,000	3, 730, 002 2, 345, 801	4, 474, 065	52.9	SL B		355	172,771	181, 404	440,041	509, 089 301, 026	464,787	550,026
New York City	97, 528 27, 062	118, 127 29, 438	2, 346, 801 363, 111	2, 685, 435 463, 613	52. \$ 55. 6	70.8	314	L#5	92,283 29,282	100, 944 27, 998	271,029 53,181	301,020	258,534 24,164	<b>350,736</b>
New York 1	7,981	a ma	108 087	156,016	48.1	44.0		214 283	f R. 901	8, 445	11,060	14.037	7.80	44,082 12,106
Opp	.   135.101	83, 676	1, 442, 132	1, 982, 394	50. 9	<b>B</b> . 5	216	284	88, 196 29, 206	1 102.621	210, 141	241, 989	172,264	218,416
Oktoliquia	20, 434	25, 950 15, 345	224, 647	420, 281 235, 216	40.2	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	138 237	171 833	29, 206 15, 407	25,225	48,774 28,776	58, 160 84, 900	34, 524	41, 125
Oregon Pennsylvania		120, 450	1.876.800	2 697, 847	40.3	66.7	120	248	119, 167	117, 287	275 082	316, 135	24, 064 237, 209	277 390
Rhode Island,	. 8,438	0,037	167, 288	217, 582	52.4	69.4	248	819	8, 127	7,688	21,477	28, 512 82, 985	21.242	39, 771 277, 330 27, 206
South Cerolius	. J 16. 1238	10,00	184, 215	246,077	02.0	함	168	184 211	16,007	14,088	27, 632		147, OUL	22, 189 11, 046
South Dekots	8 544 22 777	9,573 27,443	106, 106 230, 079	146,078 482,781	63.3	87. \$ 75. 4		177	8,807 24,628	8, 074 26, 089	13,17L 47,886	35, 521 81, 478	0, 398 88, 664	11, 045 46, 807
TEXAB.	67, 014	27, 443 71, 234 6, 822	965, 60L	1, 288, 086	(7.5	63.0	1 181	212	72,102	98, 397	128, 857	159, 253	101,720	1 126, 817
<b>Vis</b> h	. 5.703	6.892	91,902	131, 211	40.6	90.8	170	212 255 252 178	5,100	4,908	12,660	16, 680	10,898	14, 144
Vernioni	4,814	4,946	78, 070 258, 102	98,600 470,613	5L.7	04.9 78.3		252	27, 340	4,532	9, 840 51, 975	10,011 57,500	7,009 40,085	45,430
Vinglois Washington West Virginia	20, 461 22, 367 17, 129	24, 794 24, 970 18, 938	909, I7L	594, 780	48.3	1 ለኢሳ	920	321	23.100	23,806 23,313	1 10 113	68, 890	42,262	I MAIRSH
West Virginia	17,19	18,938	244,071	330, 200	51.6	78.7	187	321 182 200 354	17.6	16,978	1 31 930	36,800 95,123	24, 470	3[,116
Wisecasin	. 144,653	44.040	629, 052 58, 070	888,590	10.4	70.2	314	200	49, 177	40,979	80, 239 0, 156	95, (23	87,630	83,461
Wyoming	8, 160	3,460	66, 170	82,029	6±.∟	79.3	240	394	8,467	3,234	1 1/1/1/10	7, 274	\$ 6,777	7,343

<sup>1035</sup> incomplete. Finit canvass is continuing and additional schedules will be included in fine) report.

The material in this pritch was essembled by H. Lasten of the Division of Economic Research from the data presented in Rotal Distribution: Preliminary United States Summary, issued by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Cansus.

showing increases of 47 and 39 percent, respectively. Most of the States in these areas showed a more than average decline from 1929 to 1933, but the subsequent recovery in sales was also sharper, so that in all but two cases (Colorado, for which data are not yet complete, and Arizona) sales in 1935 in comparison with those of 1929, were at or above the average.

West North Central States, with the exception of Minnesota and Missouri, experienced a more than average decline from 1929 to 1933 and only about an average increase from 1933 to 1935. A like situation prevailed in Arkansas, Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas.

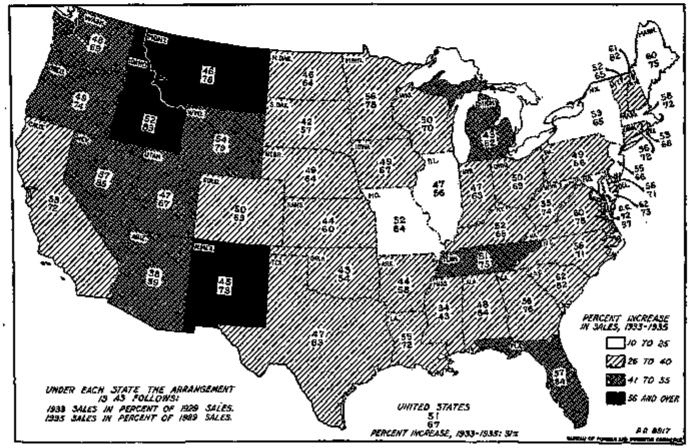
States east of the Mississippi show wider variations from State to State than are evidenced in the West. A true appraisal of sales in this large group of States cannot be made until final reports are available for New York and Illinois. One pertinent observation is that the District of Columbia has most nearly approached the 1929 level of sales. Sales in 1935 were within 3 percent of the 1929 value figure and undoubtedly were in excess of the 1929 volume.

On a per-capita basis, sales increased from \$199 in 1933 to \$257 in 1935, with all States reporting higher per-capita sales. The South, in general, showed the lowest per-capita sales, the South Atlantic and South-Central States (except for Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, and Florida) being below the United States average in both years. The District of Columbia leads the country, with per-capita sales of \$445 in 1933 and \$551 in 1935. The smallest percapita sales in both years were those reported for the State of Mississippi.

## Sales by Kind of Business.

In considering the data presented in table 2 it is important to keep in mind the method of classification employed in compiling these data. Sales by kind of business represent the total sales of stores whose chief line of activity is indicated by the title of the classification. Numerous shifts of classification of individual establishments by reason of changes in the predominant elements in their sales, have affected the comparability of certain of the minor classifications, but by grouping those between which shifts may be expected to occur because of classification, significant results are obtainable.

Of the major classifications, food stores have the best comparative record from the standpoint of dollar volume of sales. In 1933 dollar sales were 63 percent of the 1929 figure, while 1935 sales represented 77



Percentage Locrews in Retail Sales by States, 1938-35, With Relatives Showing the Changes in Comparison With 1979,

With the completion of the final report on vatalitizeds, which is expected in the coming month, the totals for 1934 will be raised comovinst, with the more important abanges in the States of Connectiont, Illinois, Maryland, Migerral, and New York, However, such increases will not incitertally affect the trends that may be observed on the basis of present explicitly figures. Notice must be taken of the fact that a small number of concerns which reported in 1932 will not be included in the final data for 1936 because of their rottest to report. The Bureau of the Consus was mable to get these reports because of the absence of legislation making such reports mandatary, other than in regular contait years.

percent of the 1929 total. Enting places, with comparable figures of 62 percent and 78 percent, and drug stores with 63 percent and 73 percent, may also be included with the more important groups which have fored relatively well. The seemingly fine record of fuel and ice dealers must be counterbalanced by the very poor record in building materials. These groups, which include many dual-line stores, must be considered as a unit for purposes of comparison, because the precipitous decline in building materials, in many cases, would shift a store into the other classification and might yield an increase even though there was actually a decline in total sales.

The continued decline in the number of cigar stores and stands, and their smaller total and per-capita sales, are not measures of the movement of sales of tobacco and tobacco products. Rather, they represent a shift in consumer purchasing habit, which has reduced the proportion of tobacco sold in specialty shops, and increased the proportionate share of department, drug, and grocery stores.

Per-capita sales showed their largest increase in the automotive line, with motor-vehicle dealers increasing their per-capita sales from \$17 to \$30 in the 2-year period. Food-store sales, always the largest item in this classification, increased materially from \$54 to \$65.

Table 2.—Summary of Retail Trade, by Kind of Business, 1933-35

Nors.—Comparisons are subject to qualification by resant of a number of tranvoldable shilts between destifications. Principal consenses: (1) More complete information in 1933, formitting more accorate classification of individual stores; (2) the policy of obasitying dual-line stores according to the principal composition sold; and (3) changes in the character of the business resulting from obasites in consulter demand. There has been a marked increase since 1933 in the sales of apparel, intuitions, building materials, farmers' supplies and motor vehicles. Rotalities selling any of these commodities in substantially equal properties of the sales of such commodities are quite likely to have changed the relative proportions of the sales of such commodities are quite likely to have changed the relative proportions of the sales of such commodities are on the sales of such commodities are only to be alagorification of their stores, over resulting in some cases in shifts from one major group to another.

Clad of business	Number of stores		plot sales				Per-capita enice		Active proprietore		Employees (la):		Total pay toll	
			Amount (thousands of dollars)		1929~ 100		(dothers)		and firm mombers		your for the		(thousands of dol-	
	1038	1935	1985	1025	1083	1636	1933	2038	1983	1985	1983	1986	1688	1945
United States, total.	1, <b>520,</b> 110	1, <b>649</b> , D&L	25, 037, 225	<b>32, 190, 26</b> 7	61.0	60.8	199. 07	257, 14	1 <b>, 57</b> 4, 34I	1, 510, 094	J. 433, 662	3, 899, 927	2, 010, 446	1, 501, 301
Food stores	470, 340	£30, 782	G, 77G, 290	8, 316, 326	62. 8	70.8	672. SS	65, 28	488, 900	698, 379	681, 382	735,989	542,780	657,659
ont ments)	183, 538	188, 622	1,803,242	2,203,641	52.3	69.9	14.44	17.27	101, 216	170,350	144.870	155.363	113,660	125, 22
(groceries and fresh ments)	340, 372	105, 862	3,201,042	4, 123, 903	82.0	106.6	26.45	82. M	140, 681	147,903	200, 617	357, 202	253, 174	502,07
Meat markets (in- oluding sea food)	38, 344	30,474	191, 800	000, 418 5, 382, 368	35.6	46.0	3.91	4.78	55,144	80, 234	47, \$52	51, 176	44,149	48,70
Other food stores Beer and fluor stores	127, 885	137, 134	1, 280, 150		66.0	04.4	10.18	10.84	142, 667	131,825	178, 513	175, 328	181, 373	381,86
(packaged) General stores (with food). General more hand is a	3, 787 85, 830	12,063 00,889	15,730 1,097,437	1,099,071	42.7	42.B	8.13	2.66 B.02	4, 202 102, 014	8,007 00,721	1,603 88,697	16, 326 83, 833	JEL 204	17, 88 <b>59</b> , 68
front merchandise Dry goods and gomeni	40,712	44,788	3,801,272	4, 413, 067	\$0.4	08.6	80.94	84.09	43,001	\$ <b>2,</b> 143	680, 553	696, 100	635, 201	876,09
Department stores	84, 122 8, 544	28, 163 4, 201	\$08, 145 2, 844, 800	521,053 8,104,071	10.2 48.5	43.8 71.4	5, 31 20, 24	4.00 24.85	30, 229 783	25,519 783	94, 787 430, 436	54, 580 (40, 750	05, <b>683</b> 387, 533	47,08 434,08
Variety, 5 and 10, to- a-dollar stores	12,045	(1,021	978, 107	797, 363	76.0	89.2	0.99	6.26	7, 653 77, 798	5,841	165, 840 263, 412	174, 310	82,885	
Apparel group,	86, 548 19, 491 6, 784	96, 147 20, 785 7, 871	1, 023, 383 480, 104 166, 371	2, 508, 250 051, 037 380, 000	45.4 41.0 34.0	61.8 64.6 66.0	16.20 8.80 1.47	20.38 6.11 2.83	77, 198 19, 088 5, 605	23, 278 17, 165 6, 060	263, 412 57, 517 97, 600	\$20,297 \$7,488 45,780	244, 673 57, 858 26, 314	39], 66 17, 78 47, 14
Wester's ready-to-	17, 760	21,839	\$58, 202		<u>52.3</u>	70.8	4.62	6.04	14, 501	17,048	88, 201	101,450	71,018	100 48
Other apporal stores	18,884 24,097	18,000 20,010	424, 892 266, 574	760, 816 491, 792 320, 580	52.6 42.6 30.9	60.9 64.3	9,38 2,03	3.85 2.54 25.28	24, 406 27, 334 188, 625	11,642 21,303	48.787 53.247	#1, 937 #8, 523	45, 455 43, 928	65, 62 65, 62 185, 30
Automotiva group	134,999	110, 558	2,687,536	4,020,584		60.1	22.96			113, 149	320, 560	876, 774	312,603	[
(new and used oars). Garages	30, 646 86, 464	95, 017 66, 183	2, (27, 720 119, 827	3,871,899 300,404	30. 2 54. 2 37. 7	40. 0	N. 92	20.88 2.89	81, 823 101, 175	30,222 71,571	203, 862 92, 283 23, 976	268, 410 62, 928 47, 438	204,818 76,210	\$25, J2 64, 77 60, 40
Other automotive Filling stations	17,890 170,404	15, 813 196, 010	230, \$18 1, 631, 724	308, 404 884, 301 1, 901, 780	84.7	00.7 100.8	1 13 1 91 12 18	2.80 3.03 16.38	17, 637 159, 451	11,850 179,811	171, 812	201, 611	31,674 151, <b>83</b> 8	174,40
Fuzzi(ture, bousehold, radio	<b>\$2,976</b>	45, (ÖL	068, 780	1, 360, 461	84.8	46.8	7. 63	0.88	29, 623	85, 828	168,040	168,127	164,623	205,05
end radio stores	8,750 8,172	14, 825 4, 309	195, 581 117, 030	371, 603 57, 400	61. 6 20. 8	97. 9 10. 3	1.50	2.01	4. 189 3, 553	7,807 4,218	47, 773 18, 832	03,549 B, 102	43,797 (B, 454	73,01 7,45
Radio deglers Furniture glores and Boor - cover ings,	0,1,2	1,500	111,000		20.0	***		, 36	. ~~~	4.6	10,944	u, 102	10, 10,	٠ <b>٠٠</b> ا
dropery stores Other home furnish-	15, 653	19, 603	503, 965	737, 768	3 86.0	46.9	j 4.73	8.70	21,000	17, 174	52, 212	<b>35,</b> 082	P2,613	300, 33
ing stores Lumber, building, bord-	6,451	7,063	52, 264	13, 057	} """		l .43	.73	4,713	0,028	8, 223	1444	0, (300)	10, 13
Lumber and building	70,003	72, 784	1, 342, 706	1, 847, 488	84.9	49.0	10.66	H.40	72, 064	00,060	159, 196	192, 101	167, 846	\$20,72
material desicre Hardware stores Hardware and farm	21, 015 22, 544	21, (39 25, 951	003, 410 311, 821	861, 160 464, 683	80.6	49.5	1.60 [ 3.48	8.76 8.00	13, 285 25, 678	10, 798 20, 422	84, 262 35, 768	00, 280 45, 701	87, 222 34, 913	100, 08 48, 64
Hardword and farm implement deplers Other building and	D, 068	9, 589	377, 108	286, 526	30.0	61.5	Lat	2.25	11,689	9,808	17, 264	21,778	16,637	27,07
Entire places	22,29) 170,444	6,214  43,232	260, 803 1, 324, 587	232, 013 1, 861, 498	39. 2 62. 8	30.4 78.2	10.52	1.83 18.08	22,001 198,209	12,021 150,470	52, 121 408, 391	34, 401 493, 873	48, 956 248, 034	40, 23 308, 00
Drinking places	29.001	97, 862 56, 519	1.000, 551	1, 861, 498 - 723, 896 1, 236, 491	08.1	72.0 03.4	. 54 8.48 3.68	0.08 0.02	108, 209 33, 769 57, 799	100, 700 48, 244	21, 039 147, 551	151,009 158,379	13, 707 126, 504	108.30
Second-hand stores	58,407 21,644 20,800 104,372	20, 231 22, 517 115, 444	463, 344 106, 275 1, 640, 630	697, 350 172, 471 1, 997, 780	41.4 71.1 41.5	82.7 51.7	1.66 12.30	4.08 .96 16.08	27, 749 22, 424 23, 466 100, 688	17, 550 22, 527 105, 237	37, 946 22, 297 228, 286	37,558 20,821 244,264	31,\$14 16,370 227,224	36, 72 10, 90 274, 11
Other stores Offer stores and stends	20, 175	,	180, 750	182, 690	45.8	44.6	1.61 1.95	1.48	20, 326 23, 324	13,790	19,091	15,007	14, 383	,
Fuol and les dealers Jewolry stotes	23, 875 14, 313	15, 349 35, 176 12, 390 11, 202 44, 280	023,077 174,000	841, 115 283, 001	81.5 32.6	80.0 48.4	1.30	0, 00 1, <u>88</u>	14, 370	31, 578 11, 077	81, 634 23, 837 13, 845	01,022 26,571	98, 843 29, 820	13, 84 103, 71 36, 29 16, 50 165, 27
Florists	7,739	11, 202 44, 230	06,405 402,235	99, 902 042, 373	31.7	42.6	{ . iii	6.04	5, 342 34, 524	11,001 37,872	12 855 91, 879	17, 295 95, 209	90, 780	165, 25

## More Retail Batabilshments Than in 1929.

The census of 1933 revealed remarkably little change in the number of retail establishments during the period of severe contraction in sales and prices subsequent to 1929. Reports now available for 1935 reveal an increase of 8 percent, or almost 123,000, in the number of establishments in comparison with the figures reported for 1933. The increase would be even larger if some 29,500 established, previously classed as bakeries, garages, heating and plumbing shops, and electrical shops had not been transferred from retail trade to other census classifications.

This gain was mainly a result of increases in the following classes: Food stores, beer and liquor stores, filling stations, drinking places, and fuel and ice dealers. Against this can be set the decline in the number of stores engaged in the sale of general merchandise. garages, and eating places. This cannot all be interpreted to mean an actual change in the establishments themselves, but rather in part to a change in classification due to the policy of classifying each concern according to its principal line of business. This policy would account for a large part of the shifts, for example, from garages to filling stations and from eating places to drinking places. However, there can be no doubt but that beer and other liquor establishments, packaged and otherwise, first legalized in December 1933, contributed a major portion of the increase. In 1933, there were 204,102 stores classed as beer and liquor stores, eating and drinking places, as against 263,147 in 1935, a gain approximately half the total gain reported in the number of retail establishments.

Geographically, but three States, other than those for which returns are yet incomplete, had a fewer number of retail establishments in 1935 than in 1933. These States are Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin.

### Number of Active Proprietors Decreased.

Despite the 8-percent increase in the number of retail establishments from 1933 to 1935, the number of active proprietors declined. According to the census definition, active proprietors include "proprietor-owners devoting the major pertion of their time to the business. They are not included in the count of employees, nor is their compensation included in the pay-roll totals. Corporate officers and executives of corporations are not proprietors." This group numbered 1,510,094 in 1935 as compared with 1,574,341 in 1933. It is true that last year's figure will be somewhat increased when final reports are available, but the States from which little, if any, additional data are expected show a definite decrease in the number of proprietors.

### Employment up 14 Percent, Pay Rolls 23 Percent.

The increase in sales from 1933 to 1935 was accompanied by a substantial gain in both employment and

pay rolls in retail establishments. The average number of employees, both full-time and part-time, increased 14 percent from 3,433,652 in 1933 to 3,899,927 in 1935, while pay rolls increased 23 percent from \$2,910,445,000 in 1933 to \$3,568,398,000 in 1935.

Although available reports do not separate parttime and full-time employment, the separation of pay rolls into these two groups shows that the 23-percent increase in total pay roll consisted of a 25-percent gain in full-time pay roll and a 5 percent decline in the amount received for part-time service. This indicates that the failure of total employment to increase more nearly in proportion to sales was a result of the more steady employment afforded persons who were previously working short hours. Final tabulations, when published, will indicate the true extent of this development.

In any case, whether as a result of fuller employment, of higher wages, or of a combination of the two, the average pay of employees in retail establishments, both full-time and part-time, increased 8 percent from \$848 in 1933 to \$915 in 1935.

Incomplete as the preliminary reports are, the Census of Business retail trade data indicate an appreciable recovery in sales, number of employees, and pay rolls in all sections of the country. Preliminary data are now available for each State and also for each city of more than 500,000 population. These provide data relative to the number of stores, amount of sales, number of proprietors and employees, and amount of pay roll for each kind of business.

The Bureau of the Census states: "Final reports will follow as rapidly as they are completed. Area tables will show stores, sales, personnel, and pay roll for each city and town of more than 2,500 population and for remainder of each county, and stores and sales by kinds of business (54 classifications in cities of more than 50,000 and 12 classifications in smaller places and for each county). Other tables will present data in considerable detail on operating expenses, rental rates, employment by months, pay rolls, types of operation (independents, chains, mail order, house-to-house, etc.), credit businesses, distribution of sales by size of business and by city-size groups, and the nature and proportion of the various commodities sold by each kind of store.

"Special-subject reports will include tables and pertinent census facts on food retailing, liquor retailing, apparel retailing, the retailing of automobiles, gasoline and oil, furniture and bousehold appliance retailing, drug retailing, and others."

Classification of individual stores should be better than in 1933 because of more complete information on the schedules. For the same reason it is expected that the 1935 Census of Business report on Retail Distribution will be more comprehensive and should give a more accurate picture of the field than did the preceding report.